

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of May 13, 2005, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Drawings

Submitted herewith is a new sheet showing the holders attached to the table by hook and loop fasteners. It is respectfully submitted that Figure 11 shows the feature claimed in claim 10 as amended, namely, a holder as shown in Figure 11 in which one side of the cover has been cut off 102, i.e., there is one end with no side piece. It is this end which is inserted between the cover of the table and the frame of the table.

Figure 12 is submitted herewith, which shows the hook and loop fasteners (120, 121) for securing holders (122) to recesses in the table (123). The specification has been amended to include a description of this figure.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The claim have been amended better to define the invention.

Art Rejections

Claims 5, 8, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pasmanick.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 5 has been amended to recite that the box has a non-skid backing [when the box is for temporary use] or is affixed to a table top [e.g., by using double-sided tape, hook and loop fasteners, etc.]. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at paragraph 0044, beginning on page 8.

The box of the present invention is designed for use on bridge tables where it must be maintained in place during the games. In contrast thereto, the box of Pasmanick has a deformable support bag 20, preferably a flexible bag filled with relatively small and dense particulate matter so that the bag is relatively heavy, deformable so that it conforms to various contours upon which it is placed, and tends to be

generally non-resilient. A less desirable support bag is deformable and resilient. The Pasmanick device is a portable work and play station for a child, and the device is equipped with a support bag so that it conforms to the surface of the user, i.e., the child's lap. This is in sharp contrast to the bottom surface of the present box, which either has a non-skid coating or is equipped to be adhered or affixed to a bridge table.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Latham et al.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Latham et al. disclose a table having cutouts into which ashtrays are placed. The ashtrays have brackets with detent elements to engage slots in the table to retain the ashtrays in place. The ash trays have a circular cutout 17 which has a flange or lip 18 adapted to receive a glass 19 so that the glass is supported therein. In the Latham et al. device, the cutouts hold an ashtray, and the ashtray includes a hole into which a cup or glass can be inserted.

The table of the present invention, on the other hand, includes a card holder and a beverage holder. Claim 1 has now been amended to recite that the card holder is at an angle so that the cards are easily visible and there is more space to see over the cards. Support for this amendment can

be found in the specification at page 7, paragraph 0037.

There is nothing in Latham et al. that would lead one skilled in the art to this configuration, as the holder in Latham et al. is for beverages and an ashtray.

Allowable Subject Matter

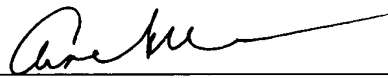
It is noted that claims 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the base claims and intervening claims are patentable, and therefore there is no need to rewrite claims 10 and 11.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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